BRITISH COLUMBIA

BC STATS

Ministry of
Management Services

Frank Ip
(250) 387-0336
Frank.Ip@gems2.gov.bc.ca
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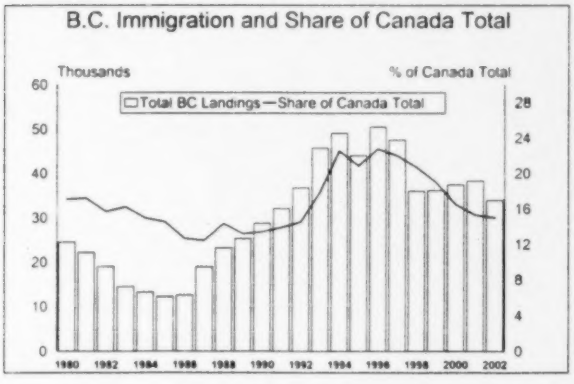
Immigration Highlights ◆ First Quarter 2003

The province's share of immigrants jumped while the total number of immigrants arriving in B.C. and Canada dropped considerably during the first quarter of 2003 . . .

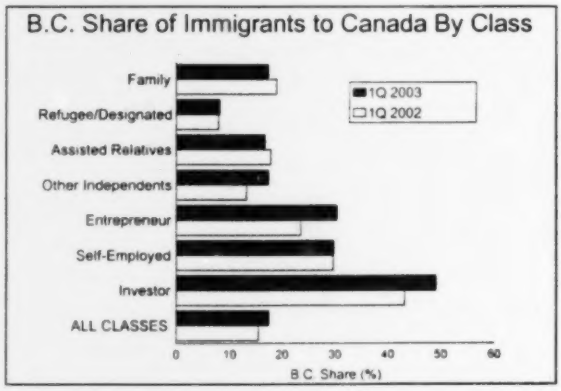
Total immigrant landings in B.C. during the first quarter of 2003 were 7,945 persons. This number was significantly lower than the 9,541 persons landed during the first quarter of 2002, representing a decline of almost 16.7%. However, B.C.'s share of total Canadian immigrants increased from 15.5% to 17.5% between the two periods.

Total landings for Canada dropped significantly from 61,548 persons recorded in the first quarter of last year to 45,386 this year. During this quarter, B.C. had regained its position being the second most popular destination for immigrants. Ontario received the greatest number of immigrants at 24,895 with Quebec now third at 7,432 immigrants.



Skilled workers and sponsored family members formed the majority of immigrants . . .

Family reunification and filling labour market needs have always been major themes in Canadian immigration policy. As a result, immigrants admitted under the Family, Assisted Relatives, and Other Independents classes have dominated the other classes of immigrants to Canada and British Columbia. Of all landings to B.C. during the first quarter of 2003, 51.2% were in the Assisted Relatives or Other Independents Classes, and 35.2% were in the Family Class. The number of immigrants admitted under the skilled worker classes showed a slight decline when compared to the same quarter of last year.



B.C. is the favoured destination for business immigrants . . .

B.C. tends to receive a relatively higher share of the business immigrants to Canada. B.C. attracted 30.4% of all entrepreneur immigrants and 49.1% of all investor immigrants who arrived in Canada during this period. In fact, B.C. received more investor immigrants than any other province in the first quarter of 2003. Business immigrants represented 9.8% of all landings to B.C. during the first quarter of 2003.

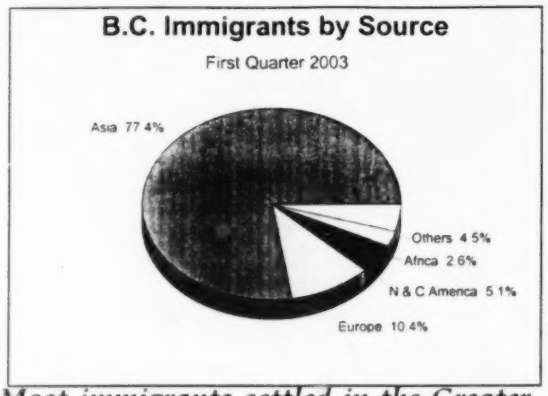
B.C. receives a relatively lower number of refugee immigrants . . .

Compared to other provinces, B.C. receives a much lower share of refugees and

immigrants in the designated classes. During this quarter, B.C. received a total of 306 refugees. This represents 8.1% of the total for Canada, which is a disproportionally lower share when compared to the overall immigrant share of 17.5%. A majority of refugees and designated immigrants arrived from Iran, China, Pakistan and some other Middle-Eastern countries.

Asia is still the leading source . . .

Asian immigrants represented 77.4% of all landings in B.C. During the first quarter of 2003, seven of the top ten source countries of immigrants to B.C. were all in Asia. Mainland China, the leading source of immigrants, accounted for most of the immigrants in the Investor class and skilled worker classes. India, the second top source country, was the source of most family immigrants to B.C. South Korea was the major source of Entrepreneur immigrants to B.C. during the period.



Most immigrants settled in the Greater Vancouver Area . . .

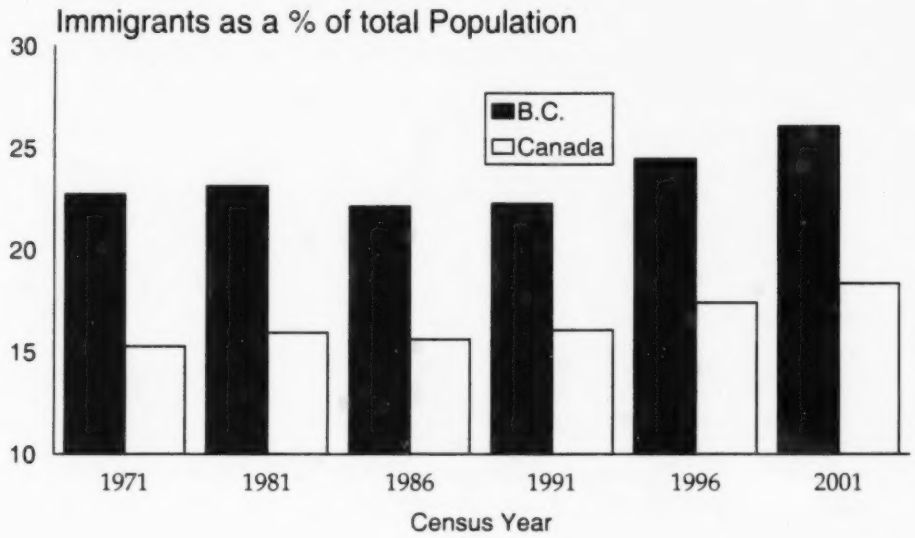
Seventy-two percent of the immigrants who landed in B.C. during the first quarter of 2003 reported an intended destination within the Greater Vancouver area. A relatively higher proportion of immigrants from non-Asian countries settled outside the Greater Vancouver area.

Previously Released Feature Articles

Mar 2003	*Earnings of Recent Canadian Immigrants*
Jan 2003	*Mother Tongue and Home Language*
Sep 2002	*English Language Ability of Recent Immigrants*
Jun 2002	*Immigrants as a Source of Labour Supply*
Feb 2002	*Refugee Immigrants to British Columbia*
Dec 2001	*Federal Immigration Plan for 2002*
Sep 2001	*Immigrants from South Korea*
Jun 2001	*Immigrants from India*
Feb 2001	*Welfare Benefits and Recent B.C. Immigrants (IMDB Series)*
Dec 2000	*Mother Tongue of Recent Immigrants to British Columbia*
Sep 2000	*Occupations of Recent Immigrants to British Columbia*
Jun 2000	*Recent Change in British Columbia Immigration Levels (An Update)*
Feb 2000	*Income Characteristics of Recent Immigrants (continued)*
Nov 1999	*Income Characteristics of Recent Immigrants*
Aug 1999	*Interprovincial Mobility of Recent Immigrants (continued)*
Jun 1999	*Interprovincial Mobility of Recent Immigrants*
Feb 1999	*Immigrants to B.C. from China-Mainland*
Oct 1998	*Interprovincial Mobility of Immigrants*
Jul 1998	*Foreign Students Studying in British Columbia*
Apr 1998	*B.C. Immigrant Population, Ethnicity, and Language*

Special Feature: B.C. Immigrant Population

In 2001, more than a quarter of the British Columbia population were born outside Canada. Amongst all provinces and territories, B.C. had the second largest immigrant population . . .



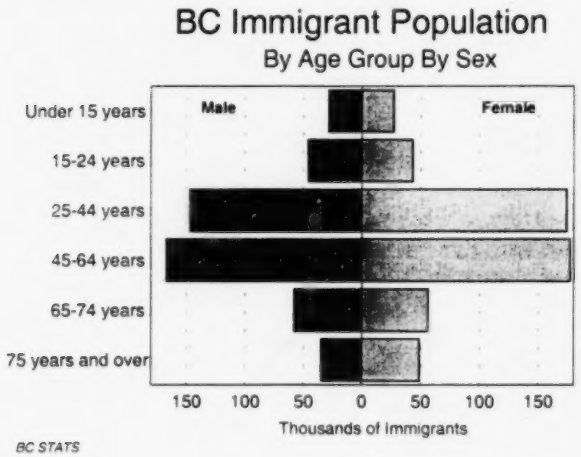
BC Stats

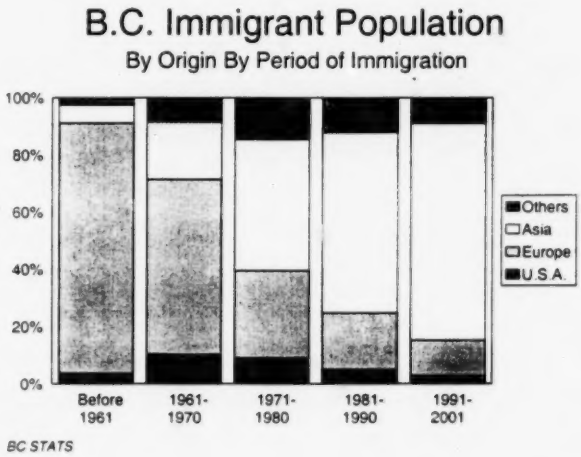
Immigrant population refers to people who were foreign born and have been permitted by immigration authorities to live in Canada permanently. The immigrant population in British Columbia has increased significantly over the past two decades due to the recent high inflow of immigrants to the province. In 2001 there were 1,009,820 immigrants living in British Columbia, accounting for 26.1% of the total population in the province. Over the period 1996-2001, the immigrant population has grown by 11.8% from 903,190 immigrants in 1996. The immigrant population was growing much faster than the Canadian born counter-part in the province. The overall population growth in B.C. was only at 4.9% over the 1996-2001 period.

A majority of the B.C. immigrant population in 2001 have been living in Canada for more than 20 years. Dividing the immigrant population by the time of immigration indicates that nearly one-third of the immigrants arrived Canada prior to 1981, and about 20 per cent came as recent immigrants since 1991. A higher proportion of the early immigrants came from Europe and the United States whereas most of the immigrants who arrived in the last two decades were from Asia. European immigrants made up 34.9% of the immigrant population in B.C. of which 75.8% had been in Canada prior to 1980. On the other hand, Asian immigrants accounted for half of the

B.C. immigrant population and 77.3% came to Canada after 1980. Most European immigrants were born in the United Kingdom or Germany while most Asian immigrants came from Mainland China, Hong Kong or India.

A majority of immigrants were in their middle ages at time of the 2001 Census. Immigrant aged 25 to 64 represented about two-thirds of the immigrant population in the province, and those who were 65 years or older accounted for 19.7% of the whole immigrant population. There were slightly more women then men in the immigrant population. Female immigrants out-numbered their male counterpart by about three per cent.





Approximately one in every ten immigrants could not speak, write or understand English. Since the majority of immigrants who arrived in the last two decades were from non-English speaking Asian countries, a relatively higher proportion of the recent immigrants possessed no English language ability at the time of the Census. Immigrants who had been in Canada for a longer time tended to have better English language proficiency because a higher proportion of the established immigrants were from English speaking countries or had learned English after living in Canada for a longer time. The most common mother tongues spoken by the non-English speaking immigrants were Cantonese, Mandarin, Punjabi, Tagalog, Korean and Farsi.

Most immigrants live in the Lower Mainland. In 2001, nearly three in every four immigrants in B.C. lived the Vancouver Census Metropolitan Area where immigrants represented more than 37% of the population. This trend is expected to continue as a majority of recent immigrants chose to live in the Lower Mainland. Statistics have shown that new immigrants, especially those from Asia, tend to settle initially in Lower Mainland communities. For example, more than 70 per cent of the Asian immigrants who arrived in B.C. in 2001 reported Vancouver as their intended destination. Some immigrants who have been living in Canada for a longer period of time would gradually move away to live outside the Lower Mainland area.

B.C. Immigration by Area of Last Permanent Residence
January to March, 2003
Total Landings: 7,945 Persons

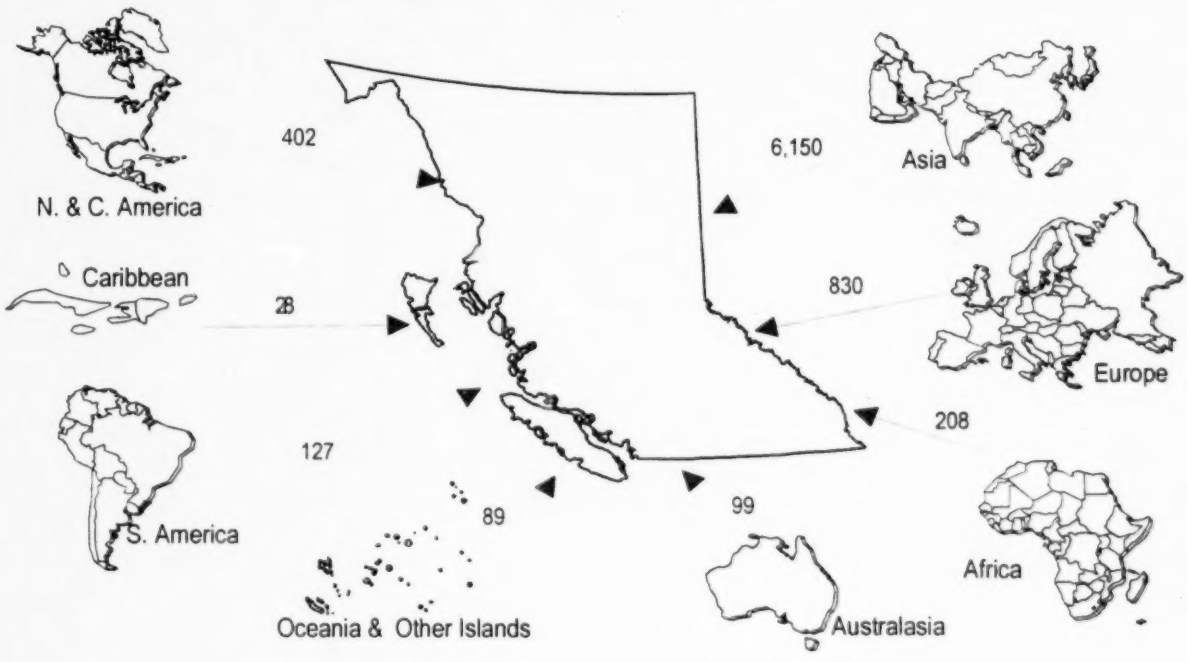


Table 1: Immigrant Landings to B.C. and Canada - January to March, 2003

SOURCE	Vancouver Area	Rest of B.C. *	Total B.C.	Canada	B.C. as a % of Canada
Europe	572	258	830	7,793	10.7%
Africa	144	64	208	3,797	5.5%
Asia	4,523	1,627	6,150	27,425	22.4%
China-Mainland	1,953	403	2,356	8,282	28.4%
India	448	501	949	4,580	20.7%
Taiwan	326	121	447	603	74.1%
Hong Kong	87	38	125	319	39.2%
Australasia	55	44	99	366	27.0%
N & C America	262	140	402	2,071	19.4%
U.S.A.	142	120	262	1,355	19.3%
Caribbean	14	14	28	1,411	2.0%
South America	95	32	127	2,208	5.8%
Oceania	48	41	89	262	34.0%
Not Stated	9	3	12	53	22.6%
All Areas	**5,722**	**2,223**	**7,945**	**45,386**	**17.5%**

** "Rest of B.C." also includes immigrants with unknown destination. Many might have been destined for Vancouver Area.*

Source: *BC STATS,*
Date: *June, 2003*

Data Provided By:
Citizenship and Immigration Canada

Table 2: Immigrant Landings by Class

- British Columbia -

Year / Quarter	Social & Humanitarian			Economic						Grand Total
	Family	Refugee & Designated	Total	Assisted Relatives	Other Independents	Entre-preneurs	Self Employed	Investor	Total	Retired	
1989	8,496	2,617	11,113	1,594	6,745	3,193	288	952	12,772	1,386	25,271
1990	10,556	2,617	13,173	2,222	6,247	3,559	430	2,011	14,469	1,454	29,096
1991	12,685	3,251	15,936	2,152	6,230	2,913	328	2,785	14,408	1,958	32,302
1992	15,098	2,992	18,090	2,436	4,891	3,965	480	4,527	16,299	2,603	36,992
1993	18,435	1,489	19,924	3,377	7,273	4,072	674	6,867	22,263	3,735	45,922
1994	17,496	1,544	19,040	5,985	9,042	4,172	744	6,292	26,235	3,820	49,095
1995	15,310	1,991	17,301	7,827	11,801	3,509	956	3,038	27,131	159	44,591
1996	14,279	3,047	17,326	8,545	16,811	4,231	1,563	3,446	34,596	107	52,029
1997	12,871	2,459	15,330	7,198	18,448	3,335	1,248	2,255	32,484	18	47,832
1998	11,045	2,346	13,391	3,791	14,532	1,909	743	1,599	22,574	-	35,965
1999	10,975	1,995	12,970	3,217	15,863	1,858	655	1,499	23,092	9	36,071
2000	10,963	2,644	13,607	3,216	16,784	1,762	627	1,374	23,763	-	37,370
2001	11,734	2,215	13,949	3,588	17,051	1,607	441	1,665	24,352	-	38,301
2002	11,824	2,138	13,962	3,298	13,029	1,178	526	1,902	19,933	-	33,895
2002/1	3,240	654	3,894	944	3,671	290	151	591	5,647		9,541
2003/1	2,794	306	3,100	594	3,474	206	109	462	4,845	-	7,945

- Canada -

Year / Quarter	Social & Humanitarian			Economic						Grand Total
	Family	Refugee & Designated	Total	Assisted Relatives	Other Independents	Entre-preneurs	Self Employed	Investor	Total	Retired	
1989	60,631	36,857	97,488	21,436	51,494	12,941	2,304	2,271	90,446	3,568	191,502
1990	74,069	40,233	114,302	25,595	54,280	12,392	1,980	4,251	98,498	3,602	216,402
1991	86,895	54,054	140,949	22,310	48,072	9,965	1,958	5,252	87,557	4,247	232,753
1992	100,668	52,351	153,019	20,030	47,835	15,873	2,820	9,695	96,253	5,543	254,815
1993	112,575	30,631	143,206	23,028	50,017	16,706	3,391	12,625	105,767	7,750	256,723
1994	94,093	20,455	114,548	27,500	47,471	14,193	2,744	10,481	102,389	7,437	224,374
1995	77,324	28,544	105,868	29,322	57,921	11,432	2,854	5,164	106,693	304	212,865
1996	68,296	32,192	100,488	28,880	74,074	11,909	4,375	6,176	125,414	147	226,049
1997	59,891	27,662	87,553	25,490	83,013	10,406	3,927	5,593	128,429	46	216,028
1998	50,799	25,375	76,174	14,960	69,255	6,617	2,625	4,534	97,991	8	174,173
1999	55,247	25,415	80,662	14,780	81,458	6,155	2,595	4,265	109,253	9	189,924
2000	60,546	30,534	91,080	18,402	104,179	6,182	2,530	4,952	136,245	-	227,325
2001	66,680	28,111	94,791	21,676	119,362	6,095	2,156	6,334	155,623	-	250,414
2002	65,261	25,223	90,484	20,466	106,613	4,485	1,900	4,626	138,090	1	228,575
2002/1	17,166	8,282	25,448	5,295	27,734	1,232	508	1,367	36,136		61,584
2003/1	16,163	3,769	19,932	3,560	19,910	678	366	940	25,454	-	45,386

British Columbia as a Percent of Canada

Year / Quarter	Social & Humanitarian			Economic						Grand Total
	Family	Refugee & Designated	Total	Assisted Relatives	Other Independents	Entre-preneurs	Self Employed	Investor	Total	Retired	
1989	14.0%	7.1%	11.4%	7.4%	13.1%	24.7%	12.5%	41.9%	14.1%	38.8%	13.2%
1990	14.3%	6.5%	11.5%	8.7%	11.5%	28.7%	21.7%	47.3%	14.7%	40.4%	13.4%
1991	14.6%	6.0%	11.3%	9.6%	13.0%	29.2%	16.8%	53.0%	16.5%	46.1%	13.9%
1992	15.0%	5.7%	11.8%	12.2%	10.2%	25.0%	17.0%	46.7%	16.9%	47.0%	14.5%
1993	16.4%	4.9%	13.9%	14.7%	14.5%	24.4%	19.9%	54.4%	21.0%	48.2%	17.9%
1994	18.6%	7.5%	16.6%	21.8%	19.0%	29.4%	27.1%	60.0%	25.6%	51.4%	21.9%
1995	19.8%	7.0%	16.3%	26.7%	20.4%	30.7%	33.5%	58.8%	25.4%	52.3%	20.9%
1996	20.9%	9.5%	17.2%	29.6%	22.7%	35.5%	35.7%	55.8%	27.6%	72.8%	23.0%
1997	21.5%	8.9%	17.5%	28.2%	22.2%	32.0%	31.8%	40.3%	25.3%	39.1%	22.1%
1998	21.7%	9.2%	17.6%	25.3%	21.0%	28.8%	28.3%	35.3%	23.0%	-	20.6%
1999	19.9%	7.8%	16.1%	21.8%	19.5%	30.2%	25.2%	35.1%	21.1%	100.0%	19.0%
2000	18.1%	8.7%	14.9%	17.5%	16.1%	28.5%	24.8%	27.7%	17.4%	-	16.4%
2001	17.6%	7.9%	14.7%	16.6%	14.3%	26.4%	20.5%	26.3%	15.6%	-	15.3%
2002	18.1%	8.5%	15.4%	16.1%	12.2%	26.3%	27.7%	41.1%	14.4%	-	14.8%
2002/1	18.9%	7.9%	15.3%	17.8%	13.2%	23.5%	29.7%	43.2%	15.6%	-	15.5%
2003/1	17.3%	8.1%	15.6%	16.7%	17.4%	30.4%	29.8%	49.1%	19.0%	-	17.5%

Source: *BC STATS,*
Date: *June, 2003*

Data Provided By:
Citizenship and Immigration Canada

Immigration by Destination by Class
January - March, 2003

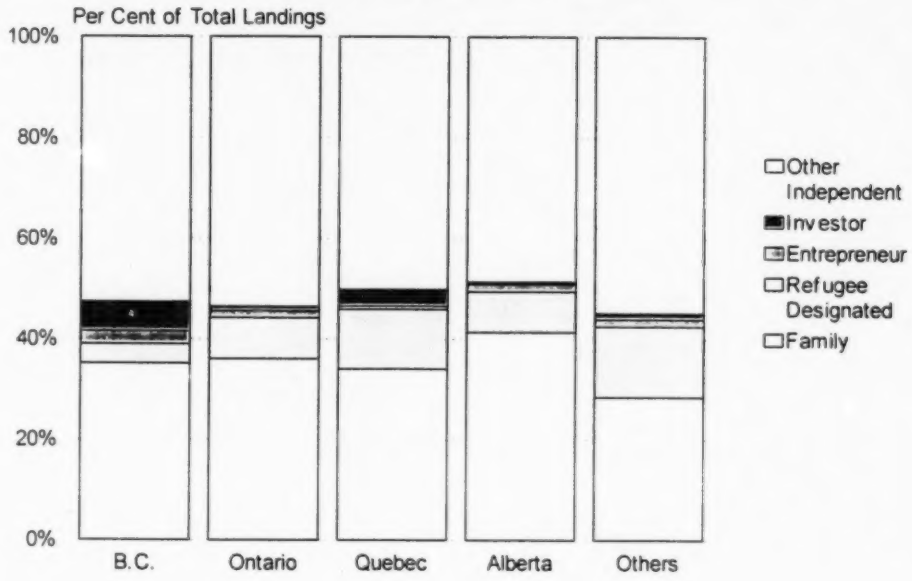


Table 3: Immigrant Landings by Province by Class

Province	Social & Humanitarian: Family	Refugee & Designated	Total	Economic: Assisted Relatives	Other Independents	Entrepreneurs	Self Employed	Investor	Total	Grand Total
2002										
NFLD	74	137	211	10	177	-	1	-	188	399
P.E.I.	30	50	80	2	21	-	5	-	28	108
N.S.	408	225	633	91	522	98	34	20	765	1,398
N.B.	193	158	351	35	287	5	1	26	354	705
Que	8,026	6,454	14,480	670	19,745	553	204	1,749	22,921	37,401
Ont	38,254	12,698	50,952	14,557	63,837	2,378	804	872	82,448	133,400
Man	947	971	1,918	268	2,314	4	82	8	2,676	4,594
Sask	402	600	1,002	79	532	11	21	11	654	1,656
Alta	4,946	1,774	6,720	1,440	6,012	249	213	38	7,952	14,672
B.C.	11,824	2,138	13,962	3,298	13,029	1,178	526	1,902	19,933	33,895
Territories	54	13	67	9	37	2	6	-	54	121
Not Stated	103	5	108	7	101	7	3	-	118	226
Canada	65,261	25,223	90,484	20,466	106,614	4,485	1,900	4,626	138,091	228,575
2003 First Quarter										
NFLD	22	15	37	2	29	-	-	-	31	68
P.E.I.	6	13	19	-	2	-	-	2	4	23
N.S.	128	36	164	22	84	13	13	18	150	314
N.B.	53	37	90	9	56	5	-	1	71	161
Que	2,536	884	3,420	228	3,449	47	42	246	4,012	7,432
Ont	8,985	2,038	11,023	2,447	10,739	350	141	195	13,872	24,895
Man	247	109	356	29	649	4	24	-	706	1,062
Sask	115	83	198	17	161	4	3	3	188	386
Alta	1,250	244	1,494	210	1,221	45	32	13	1,521	3,015
B.C.	2,794	306	3,100	594	3,474	206	109	462	4,845	7,945
Territories	25	3	28	0	11	0	2	0	13	41
Not Stated	2	1	3	2	35	4	-	-	41	44
Canada	16,163	3,769	19,932	3,560	19,910	678	366	940	25,454	45,386

Source: *BC STATS,*
Date: *June, 2003*

Data Provided By:
Citizenship and Immigration Canada

B.C. Immigration by Top 10 Source Countries by Class

January - March, 2003

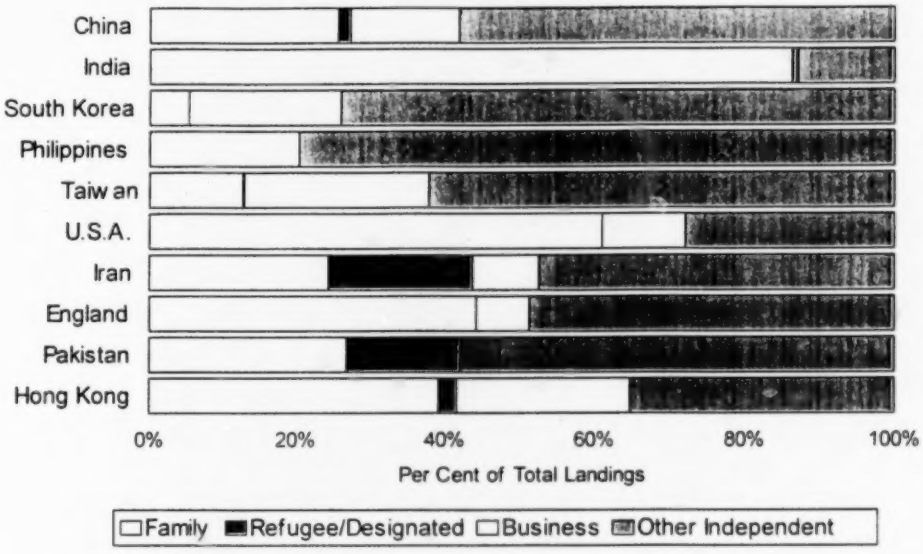


Table 4: B.C. Immigrant Landings by Source By Class, January - March, 2003

	Social & Humanitarian			Economic					
Province	Family	Refugee & Designated	Total	Assisted Relatives	Other Independents	Entre-preneurs	Self Employed	Investor	Total	Grand Total
World Area										
Europe	322	15	337	47	387	31	23	5	493	830
Africa	59	55	114	12	76	5	1	-	94	208
Asia	2,012	193	2,205	503	2,770	156	67	449	3,945	6,150
Australasia	45	-	45	8	46	-	-	-	54	99
N&C America	222	11	233	12	122	10	17	8	169	402
Caribbean	20	-	20	3	5	-	-	-	8	28
S. America	51	12	63	4	55	4	1	-	64	127
Oceania & Isl.	51	20	71	5	13	-	-	-	18	89
Not Stated	12	-	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	12
Top 20 Source Countries										
China	605	40	645	112	1,258	18	24	299	1,711	2,356
India	819	6	825	10	112	-	-	2	124	949
South Korea	38	-	38	123	402	97	-	50	672	710
Philippines	102	-	102	75	322	-	-	-	397	499
Taiwan	57	1	58	45	233	17	32	62	389	447
U.S.A.	160	-	160	6	67	4	17	8	102	262
Iran	58	46	104	42	71	5	8	8	134	238
England	88	-	88	22	75	5	7	2	111	199
Pakistan	44	25	69	19	76	-	-	-	95	164
Hong Kong	49	3	52	24	20	8	3	18	73	125
Japan	75	-	75	2	35	3	-	-	40	115
Mexico	35	6	41	3	52	6	-	-	61	102
Russia	34	3	37	-	56	-	-	-	56	93
Fiji	51	20	71	5	13	-	-	-	18	89
Singapore	10	-	10	20	54	2	-	-	76	86
South Africa	25	-	25	6	40	5	1	-	52	77
Ukraine	17	1	18	5	49	-	-	-	54	72
Germany	19	-	19	2	22	7	16	-	47	66
Australia	36	-	36	6	23	-	-	-	29	65
Romania	24	4	28	3	21	7	-	-	31	59
Others	448	151	599	64	473	22	1	13	573	1,172
Total	**2,794**	**306**	**3,100**	**594**	**3,474**	**206**	**109**	**462**	**4,845**	**7,945**

Source: *BC STATS,*
Date: *June, 2003*

Data Provided By:
Citizenship and Immigration Canada

GLOSSARY

Assisted Relatives Class-Includes relatives (distant) who, like all independent immigrants, are assessed against economic selection criteria, but also receive "points" because family members already in Canada are willing to help them become established.

Business Immigrants-Immigrants in the Entrepreneur, Investor, or Self-employed Class.

Convention Refugees-Includes those persons who meet the definition specified by the United Nations Refugee Convention.

Dependent Classes-Include those classes of immigrant who require sponsorship in Canada.

Designated Class-Includes those persons assessed under relaxed immigrant selection criteria who do not qualify as convention refugees under the United Nations' definition of refugees. In this Highlights, Designated Class also includes persons under the Deferred Removal Order Class in which landed immigrant status was granted to immigration applicants or unqualified refugee claimants after a deportation decision was revoked.

Economic Immigrants-Immigrants in the Assisted Relatives, Other Independents, Entrepreneur, Self-employed, or Investor Class.

Entrepreneur Class-Includes those persons (and dependents) who intend to establish or purchase a substantial interest in a business in Canada creating or maintaining employment for more than one Canadian citizen.

Family Class-Includes spouses, fiancés, dependent children, and parents or grandparents sponsored by a Canadian citizen.

Independent Classes-Include those classes of immigrant who do not require sponsorship in Canada.

Investor Class-Includes those persons (and dependents) with a proven track record and substantial net worth who are willing to make a large investment for at least three years in specified activities that will contribute to the creation or continuation of employment opportunities in Canada.

Landed Immigrants-Immigrants who are granted permanent resident status in Canada, and who have actually entered Canada.

Other Independents-Includes those persons selected on the basis of the "point system", which measures the potential for successful establishment in Canada.

Retired Class-For immigration purposes a retiree is an independent immigrant (i.e. without sponsorship) 55 year or older with sufficient funds to maintain an adequate life style without government aid while living in Canada. This class has been eliminated in August 1991. Current landings in this class were immigrants who started the application process prior to the removal of this class.

Self Employed Class-Includes those persons (and dependents) who intend to establish a business in Canada that will employ him/herself, and will make a significant contribution to the economy.